



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Changes Coming to Wabash Memorial Toll Bridge

Automation will make traveling across bridge smoother ride

MOUNT VERNON, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is moving forward with another innovative way of doing business. Beginning Monday, November 8, motorists who travel across the Wabash Memorial Toll Bridge can sign up for the new “Wabash Pass” electronic tolling system.

The electronic tolling system will allow users to place a transponder on the front windshield of the vehicle which will be scanned by an overhead reader at the toll bridge. Motorists will upload money on their account to be used to pay their tolls without having to carry cash or purchase advance tickets as they have in the past.

The Toll Bridge office will be open beginning Tuesday, November 9th from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time for motorists to come in and pick up the transponder to be used with the new system. Those extended hours will last through Wednesday, November 24. INDOT will also provide two Saturday sign up dates, November 13 and December 4. Motorists can come in between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. local time on those Saturdays. Payment can be made by cash, check or unused tickets.

After December 1, motorists may also visit www.wabashbridge.com to order a transponder or add money to their account. At that time, they will also be able to pay by e-check, debit card or credit card. If motorists are unable to come to the office or do not have access to the internet, they may also contact INDOT. Please call 1-800-279-5758 and ask for the “Wabash Pass”. Our staff will take the necessary information and process the necessary equipment.

To continue the practice of being good stewards of the Taxpayer's dollars, INDOT has elected to install this system. The bridge is not a part of the Federal Highway Register and is not eligible for federal funding for repairs or replacement. The structure was originally built in 1956 and recently underwent improvements. It is currently in year 53 of its estimated 75 year life span.

The State did not want to entertain the notion of increasing tolls for the bridge. The last increase was in 1984. In order to secure the funding required for the necessary repairs and replacement, refining the tolling process was necessary. By switching to the automated system the State will have a reduction in operating costs and allowing those funds to be retained for capital improvements.

As a part of the progress, there will be lane restrictions as the equipment is installed. Construction could begin as early as Monday, November 8 and should be complete no later than Friday, November 19, weather, equipment and material dependent.

Recognizing there will be glitches to be worked through; the electronic system will run through a test period beginning December 1. For the month of December, the transponders will actually be scanned and customer accounts reviewed to ensure the equipment is operating properly. During this time motorists will continue to pay fees manually at the booth. The actual go-live date for the system and debiting of tolls from motorists accounts will begin January 1, 2011.

INDOT reminds motorists to follow the posted work zone speed limit, use caution and consider worker safety when traveling through a construction zone. For the latest news and information about INDOT, please visit www.in.gov/indot.

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